

Message Text

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FM AMCONSUL MUNICH

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7854

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN PRIORITY

AMCONSUL BREMEN

AMCONSUL DUSSELDORF

AMCONSUL FRANKFURT

AMCONSUL HAMBURG

AMCONSUL STUTTART

USMISSION US BERLIN

C O N F I D E N T I A L MUNICH 3044

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, GW

SUBJECT: CSU REACTION TO STRAUSS' NEW OFFER TO CDU

REF: MUNICH 3039

1. SUMMARY: INITIAL CSU REACTION TO STRAUSS' ANNOUNCEMENT OF CSU OFFER TO RECONSTITUTE JOINT CDU/CSU BUNDESTAG "FRAKTION" SEEMS TO BE FAVORABLE. BAVARIAN MIN PRESIDENT GOPPEL VOTED FOR NEW OFFER, AND A USUALLY RELIABLE SOURCE IN BAVARIAN LANDTAG FEELS STRAUSS' CHANGE OF TACTICS HAS DIMINISHED INTRA-CSU OPPOSITION TO KREUTH WITHOUT SACRIFICING STRAUSS' GOALS OF GENERATING MOVEMENT IN FRG'S PARTY LANDSCAPE AND PUTTING MAXIMUM PRESSURE ON SPD AND FDP. END SUMMARY.

2. IN PRESS CONFERENCE AT MUNICH PRESS CLUB DECEMBER 10, MIN PRESIDENT GOPPEL SAID HE VOTED FOR NEW CSU OFFER AND IS PLEASED WITH IT. HE STRESSED THAT IT WAS STRAUSS PERSONALLY WHO TOOK INITIATIVE IN PRESENTING NEW OFFER AND EMPHASIZED STRAUSS' DESIRE FOR AN EXTRAORDINARY CSU CONVENTION. GOPPEL ALSO INDICATED THAT NEW CSU "DECISION" WAS MADE IN FULL KNOWLEDGE OF RESOLUTION PASSED EARLIER IN DAY BY CDU "VORSTAND."

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3. GOPPEL SAW TWO ESSENTIAL DIFFERENCES BETWEEN DECEMBER 9 OFFER AND PRE-KREUTH SITUATION: (A) CDU AND CSU ARE DEFINITELY TWO INDEPENDENT PARTIES; AND (B) CDU WOULD AGREE NOT RPT NOT TO BLAME CSU IF IT ADOPTS DIFFERENT POSITIONS AND VOTES DIFFERENTLY FROM CDU IN BUNDESTAG.

4. A CSU LANDTAG DEPUTY WHO IS LONGTIME FRIEND OF CONGEN BELIEVES STRAUSS' REAL GOAL WAS AND REMAINS UNCONDITIONAL CONFRONTATION WITH COALITION PARTIES. STRAUSS INTENDS TO EXERT MAXIMUM PRESSURE ON CDU TO FOLLOW CSU POLICY AND TACTICS UNTIL HE (STRAUSS) HAS EITHER TRIUMPHED OR RESIGNS IN DEFEAT.

5. DEPUTY FEELS DECEMBER 9 DECISION SIGNALS CHANGE IN STRAUSS' TACTICS BUT NOT RPT NOT HIS BASIC STRATEGY. STRAUSS MODIFIED TACTICS TO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT OPPOSITION TO KREUTH WITHIN CSU. HE IS, NEVERTHELESS, STILL COMMITTED TO HARD LINE AGAINST SPD AND FDP.

6. DEPUTY BELIEVES STRAUSS HAS PUT KOHL INTO DIFFICULT SITUATION IN WHICH HE MAY WELL LOSE FACE.

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